

THE WINTER SPIDER ORCHID, A NEW SPECIES FROM WONGAN HILLS

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Caladenia glossodiphylla sp. nov.

Planta parva, usque ad 7 cm. alta, radice crasso. Foliium decumbens, lanceolatum, supra exigue hirtum, infra glabrum et rubrum, 3-5 cm. longum. Braetea amplexicaulis, exigue hirta, c. 1 cm. longa. Caulis gracilis, fuscus, hirtus. Flos solitarius, fere 4 cm. longus. Sepala petalaeque filiformia, sed sepala lateralia ad bases latiora. Sepalum dorsale angustissimum, 2-fere 3 cm. longum, erectum sed paulum incurvum. Sepala lateralia patentia, transversa, saltem 2 cm. longa, ad bases 3 venis longitudinalibus rubris. Petala filiformia, aliquantum torta, c. 16 mm. longa. Labellum oblongum apice acuto, elobatum sed ad basem calcaribus duobus obtusis, breviter unguiculatum, ad basem pallidum, abhinc ad apicem rubrum; margines posteriores integri, margines anteriores dentati. Calli gammati, in 4-6 ordinibus congregati, posteriores pallidi, anteriores rubri, non ad apicem attineti. Columna incurva, supra late alata cum 3 venis fuscis crassis; anthera mucronata; basis columnae glandibus clavatis minutis ornata.

A small plant up to 7 cm. high, with a thick rhizome between the stem and the tubers. Leaf decumbent, lanceolate, resembling that of *Glossodia Brunonis* and *G. major*, except that the latter is not red-coloured on the under surface; sparsely hairy above, glabrous and dark red below, 3-5 cm. long. Stem slender, dark, hairy. Braets about 1 cm. long, the stem braet sheathing the base of the floral braet. Flower solitary about 4 cm. long from tip to tip of the extended segments. Sepals and petals filiform, but the lateral sepals broader towards the base. Dorsal sepal very narrow, 2 to nearly 3 cm. long, erect but slightly in-curved. Lateral sepals spreading, *crossed*, at least 2 cm. long, towards the base with 3 longitudinal red veins. Petals filiform, sometimes twisted, about 16 mm. long. Labellum oblong with an acute apex, not lobed but with a blunt spur on either side at the base, shortly clawed, pale towards the base, thence to the apex deep red; posterior margins entire, anterior margins *dentate*. Calli gammate, in 4-6 crowded rows; the posterior ones pale, the anterior ones red, not reaching the apex of the labellum (extending a little over half-way). Column incurved, broadly winged above with 3 coarse dark veins; anther mucronate; base of column furnished with minute clavate glands.

Habitat: Under thick scrub in red soil on the southern slopes of the Wongan Hills.

Representative locality: Western Australia, Wongan Hills. (Holotype in Perth Herbarium, leg Riea Erickson, June 10, 1953).

This species in the group of small spider orchids is distinctive for its unusual leaf, the glandular hairy column and its early flowering season. In other respects it is close to *C. radialis* Rogers, which differs also in the *yellow* calli on the labellum.